

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 AID-05

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179097 TOSEC 080144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAGR, FI

SUBJECT: CANADIAN LIVESTOCK AND MEAT - ISSUES AND
TALKING POINTS

1. WE ARE INFORMED BY THE CANADIAN EMBASSY THAT PRIME
MINISTER TRUDEAU MAY RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH THE PRESIDENT
IN HELSINKI. THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL IS PROVIDED, THEREFORE,
FOR INCLUSION IN THE CANADIAN SECTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S
CONTINGENCY BRIEFING BOOK.

2. BACKGROUND - CANADIAN LIVESTOCK AND MEAT
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DURING 1974, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PLACED TEMPORARY
QUANTITATIVE LIMITATIONS ON THE IMPORTATION OF CATTLE AND
MEAT FROM THE UNITED STATES. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE
REMOVAL OF UNJUSTIFIABLE CANADIAN RESTRICTIONS AND TO

PROVIDE ACCESS FOR UNITED STATES CATTLE AND MEAT TO THE MARKETS OF CANADA ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS, THE PRESIDENT PLACED TEMPORARY QUANTITATIVE LIMITATIONS ON THE IMPORTATION INTO THE UNITED STATES OF CERTAIN CATTLE, BEEF, VEAL, SWINE, AND PORK FROM CANADA.

CANADA HAS NOW EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON BOTH SIDES. THROUGH CONSULTATIONS WITH

THE CANADIANS, U.S. REPRESENTATIVES REACHED AN AGREEMENT FOR MODIFICATION OF THE QUOTAS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. THE MODIFICATIONS REMOVE CANADIAN RESTRICTIONS ON THE IMPORTATION OF U.S. CATTLE AND U.S. RESTRICTIONS ON THE IMPORTATION OF CANADIAN CATTLE, SWINE AND PORK. WHILE WE SEE ADVANTAGES IN AN ULTIMATE RETURN TO AN OPEN BORDER REGARDING MEAT TRADE, WE RESISTED REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE IMPORTATION OF CANADIAN BEEF AND VEAL AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF COMPLICATIONS IMPOSED BY OUR MEAT IMPORT ACT AND THE NEGOTIATED VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM WHICH WE RECENTLY CONCLUDED WITH AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND A NUMBER OF OTHER NATIONS. THE CANADIANS AFTER SOME DELAY ACCEPTED OUR STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WOULD REVIEW THE BEEF SITUATION LATER WHEN POSSIBLE SHORTFALLS IN EXPORTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT PROVIDE SOME FLEXIBILITY FOR ADJUSTING THE CANADIAN SITUATION.

3. CANADIAN POSITION

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN A CABINET DECISION TO ACCEPT THE NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT TO REMOVE CONTROLS ON THE IMPORTATION OF U.S. CATTLE. THIS DECISION, WHICH IS CONTINGENT ON COMPLEMENTARY U.S. ACTION, COULD BE IMPLEMENTED AUGUST 1, THE CANADIANS' PREFERRED DATE. THE CANADIANS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED WITH REMOVAL OF THE REMAINING RESTRICTIONS ON

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TRADE IN MEAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. U.S. POSITION

THE INTERESTED AGENCIES IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THE PRESIDENT APPROVE A DRAFT PROCLAMATION WHICH WOULD REMOVE U.S. IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON CATTLE, SWINE AND PORK. U.S. NEGOTIATORS HAVE AGREED WITH THEIR CANADIAN COUNTERPARTS THAT A SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE IN WASHINGTON AND OTTAWA SHOULD ANNOUNCE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT.

5. YOUR TALKING POINTS

--WE WELCOME THE PROGRESS OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE MADE
TOWARD REMOVING IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN
CATEGORIES OF CATTLE, OTHER LIVESTOCK AND MEAT.

--WE EXPECT THIS FIRST STEP CAN BE COMPLETED SOON AND
ANNOUNCED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF
CANADA.

--WE LOOK FORWARD TO A RETURN TO AN "OPEN BORDER" WITH
CANADA AS REGARDS LIVESTOCK AND MEAT.

--DURING THE REMAINDER OF 1975, HOWEVER, THE VOLUME
OF MEAT IMPORTS WE CAN ACCEPT FROM CANADA WILL BE
CONSTRAINED BY COMPLICATIONS IMPOSED BY OUR MEAT IMPORT
ACT AND THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM IN WHICH OTHER
FOREIGN SUPPLIERS PARTICIPATE. WE WILL BE IN A BETTER
POSITION TO JUDGE THIS WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, AND WE WILL
DO ALL WE CAN TO ACCOMODATE CANADIAN INTERESTS.

--WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONSULTING WITH THE CANADIAN
GOVERNMENT AT AN EARLY DATE IN REGARD TO REMOVAL OF
RESTRAINTS ON THE IMPORTATION OF MEAT INTO BOTH
COUNTRIES. INGERSOLL

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